

October 26, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd Austin Secretary of Defense U.S Department of Defense 1000 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20301 – 1000

Dear Secretary Austin,

We write to express our opposition to the recent Department of Defense (DoD) directive included in the memorandum entitled "Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care" dated October 20, 2022. Among several policy changes, this memo directs the unprecedented use of American taxpayer dollars to facilitate abortions for service members and their families, against the wishes of the American people from all walks of life.

This memo asserts that the Supreme Court ruling *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* has impacted the readiness, recruiting, and retention of the Force. Therefore, it directs the DoD to establish "travel and transportation allowances for service members and their dependents" to "facilitate official travel to access non-covered reproductive health care that is unavailable within the local area of a Service member's permanent duty station." This move represents an unprecedented politicization of our Armed Forces, which has unfortunately been a hallmark of the Biden Administration from the start.

Your decision to bypass Congress and establish a DoD abortion travel fund flies in the face of nearly a half-century of bipartisan consensus to respect the sincere beliefs of millions of pro-life Americans by restraining the federal government from using taxpayer dollars to fund most abortions. It is even more disgraceful that you are using our brave service members and their families – tasked with providing for our nation's security – as the vehicle to push this extreme policy on the American public. This obvious political gamesmanship will only serve to further undermine Americans' trust in the U.S. Armed Forces and further hamstring future military recruitment efforts.

We demand the immediate rescission of this unconscionable directive. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Chip Roy

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Michael Cloud Member of Congress Jeff Duncan

Member of Congress

Tim Burchett Member of Congress Dan Bishop

Member of Congress

Bob Good

Member of Congress

Mary E Miller

Mary E. Miller

Member of Congress

Jake Ellzey Member of Congress Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler

Member of Congress

Warren Davidson Member of Congress

Kevin Hern Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Lauren Boebert Member of Congress

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Diana Harshbarger Member of Congress Doug Lamborn Member of Congress

Jim Banks Member of Congress

Mike Johnson Member of Congress W. Gregory Steube Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis Member of Congress

Ben Cline Member of Congress Elise M. Stefanik Member of Congress

Burgess Owens Member of Congress Bruce Westerman Member of Congress

Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

Ronny L. Jackson, M.D. Member of Congress

Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

Brad Finstad Member of Congress Ralph Norman

Member of Congress

Barry Moore Member of Congress Gun Wagner Member of Congress

Michael Guest Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko Member of Congress

Jack Bergman Member of Congress

John R. Moolenaar Member of Congress

Bill Posey Member of Congress

Brian Mast Member of Congress

Mark E. Green

Member of Congress

Scott Franklin Member of Congress